

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending.

I. Rejections Over the Prior Art:

In responding to the Examiner's prior art rejections, Applicant here only justifies the patentability of independent claim 1. As the Examiner will appreciate, should independent claim 1 be patentable over the prior art, narrower dependent claims would also necessarily be patentable. Accordingly, Applicant does not separately discuss the patentability of the dependent claims, although it reserves the right to do so at a later time if necessary.

Claim 1 has been rejected for anticipation (35 U.S.C. § 102(b)) in light of USP 4,578,573 ("Flies").

Applicant has amended claim 1 to specify that the "electrical contacts in each row are formed from a sheet separate from the printed circuit board." See Applicant's Specification, Fig. 11C, element 308. Clearly, Flies does not disclose or suggest this new limitation. Instead, Flies contacts comprise sawed-through PCB through-holes or barrels 27, 28, which ultimately comprise the external contacts 16. Col. 3, ll. 57-60. But these barrels 27, 28 are not formed from a sheet separate from the PCB. In fact, Flies' barrels are specifically formed as part of the PCB. See Flies, col. 3, ll. 16-38.

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Based on the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1 and 3-14 are allowable, and requests that a Notice of Allowance issue for these claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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